

RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD HOUSES

By Mabel R. Bates

Mr. and Mrs. Zelotus Prince, parents of Warren and grandparents of Walter Prince, lived in an old Cape Cod house off Enterprise St. After the Zelotus Princes died, Warren's brother David lived there. I remember his parents well. Solotus did graining work and I know he did the woodwork in my parents' dining room.

On the site where the Walter Wolfes live, was the old William Woodward homestead. Here the Woodwards lived with their two sons. After the William Woodwards died, Dr. Herman C. Bumpus, Sr. (president of Tufts University) bought the vacant house, and this was the first house he worked on.

One day while he and my husband Chester were plastering, a tourist stopped to ask the way to Plymouth, and inquired what Dr. Bumpus did in his spare time. He said he was president of Tufts. At a nearby filling station, the tourist told the attendant he had just been talking to a nice old plasterer who was under the delusion that he was a college president, and wondered why Duxbury authorities didn't have him committed. Dr. Bumpus loved to tell this story. The house was later sold and moved to Powder Point, where it still stands near the residence of Dr. H.C. Bumpus, Jr.

Back to Enterprise St., the George Sprague house is next across the street. Sprague once lived at Dr. Herman Delano's place, and may have been born there. His children were William, Lilly, Cora, Vesty and Addie. William had three children; he was married to the Harriet Ross. The children were Mabel Sprague Chandler, Lloyd and Warren Sprague. They were not born in this house.

Later Lloyd married and lived in his grandfather's house. A Mrs. Eastman owned the house, and Lloyd and his wife cared for her in her old age. Later Alice Barber owned it and rented it to the Rev. Childs, Emery Dobson and Richard Beans, in that order. Then Mrs. Maud Church and Miss Mary Delano lived there.

Next is the Wallace Sherman house on the left. Dr. Bumpus bought it when the house was empty, and owned by the Sherman heirs. The place was given to Mrs. Sherman as a wedding gift by her father, a Mr. Atwell who lived off Tremont St. at Cox's Corner, where Edwin Loring lived later. Mr. Sherman's house was built in the late 1700's or early 1800's, as papers of that date were found in the attic walls. I don't know how old the house was when the papers were pasted on the walls. The Nightingales owned the house of Dr. Bumpus after he moved to Powder Point. After the Nightingales left, Chester Bates' family moved into it and lived there for 20 years. There was a big barn on the place, built by the Shermans. Young Lysander Sherman kept his butcher carts there when he sold meat from door to door. When Chester lived there he made many repairs, tore down the barn and built a garage. He removed the front of the sun parlor and restored its Cape Cod style, just as it was originally. The Bates sold the house to the Randall Abbots, then Mrs. Doyle owned it for a while. It passed next to the Quidleys, who sold it to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dente. Mrs. Quidley worked for Mrs. Russell Doyle, the realtor. The place was called "Goose Neck Farm," as the curve in the road resembles a goose's neck.